

Maryland GDP by County, 2015 - 2018

County GDP data

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) recently released new estimates for gross domestic product (GDP) for every county in the U.S. for 2001 to 2018.¹ GDP measures the market value of the goods and services produced in an area. BEA has produced GDP data at the state level since 1963 and for metropolitan areas since 2001. In 2018, BEA released preliminary GDP estimates for all counties between 2012 and 2015. This newest release provides a deeper understanding of regional economic growth, size and scale, industrial composition, and other relevant analyses of local economic conditions.

County GDP highlights

In 2018, Montgomery County had the highest GDP of all Maryland counties at just over \$95 billion, or 23 percent of the state's total economy. In fact, Montgomery County's GDP is larger than that of the eighteen smallest Maryland counties combined. The Baltimore region continues to serve as another key economic engine of the state, as Baltimore County and Baltimore City had the second and third highest levels of GDP respectively. In 2018, these two counties combined for a total GDP of over \$107 billion. As may be expected, counties in Western Maryland and the Eastern shore had the lowest GDP totals in 2018. For example, in 2018 Kent County's GDP was 0.2 percent of Maryland's total GDP. The table below shows each county's GDP in 2018.

GDP for Maryland Counties in 2018

County	GDP (\$, thousands)	Share of Maryland Total
Maryland	\$412,584,246	100%
Montgomery	\$95,064,444	23.0%
Baltimore	\$55,028,735	13.3%
Baltimore City	\$52,193,665	12.7%
Anne Arundel	\$50,181,212	12.2%
Prince George's	\$47,181,860	11.4%
Howard	\$26,163,100	6.3%
Frederick	\$14,105,692	3.4%
Harford	\$13,290,305	3.2%
Washington	\$8,000,383	1.9%
St. Mary's	\$7,362,024	1.8%
Carroll	\$6,584,698	1.6%
Charles	\$6,032,279	1.5%
Wicomico	\$5,445,827	1.3%
Cecil	\$4,756,153	1.2%
Calvert	\$4,739,242	1.1%
Allegany	\$3,199,879	0.8%
Worcester	\$3,137,115	0.8%

¹ GDP by County, Metro, and Other Areas <https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/gdp-county-metro-and-other-areas>

County	GDP (\$, thousands)	Share of Maryland Total
Talbot	\$2,264,791	0.5%
Queen Anne's	\$1,872,222	0.5%
Dorchester	\$1,413,120	0.3%
Garrett	\$1,371,388	0.3%
Caroline	\$1,284,618	0.3%
Somerset	\$968,922	0.2%
Kent	\$942,572	0.2%

Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

County GDP share by sector

The new data from BEA shows more than just overall level of economic activity. The release also illustrates what industries are driving GDP in each Maryland county. For example, the table below shows what proportion of a county's GDP is due to the private sector and what proportion is from government and government enterprises. Statewide, government accounts for approximately 20 percent of GDP. There are six Maryland counties with a higher proportion than this with St. Mary's County having the highest share at 46 percent of total GDP. In contrast, only seven percent of Howard County's GDP is from government and government enterprises.

Share of County GDP by Major Industry Sector, 2018

County	Private Industries	Government
Maryland	80%	20%
St. Mary's	54%	46%
Anne Arundel	66%	34%
Prince George's	70%	30%
Harford	72%	28%
Somerset	74%	26%
Charles	77%	23%
Montgomery	81%	19%
Allegany	83%	17%
Cecil	83%	17%
Baltimore City	84%	16%
Frederick	84%	16%
Dorchester	84%	16%
Baltimore	86%	14%
Queen Anne's	87%	13%
Wicomico	88%	12%
Caroline	88%	12%
Carroll	89%	11%
Worcester	89%	11%
Garrett	90%	10%
Washington	90%	10%
Kent	90%	10%

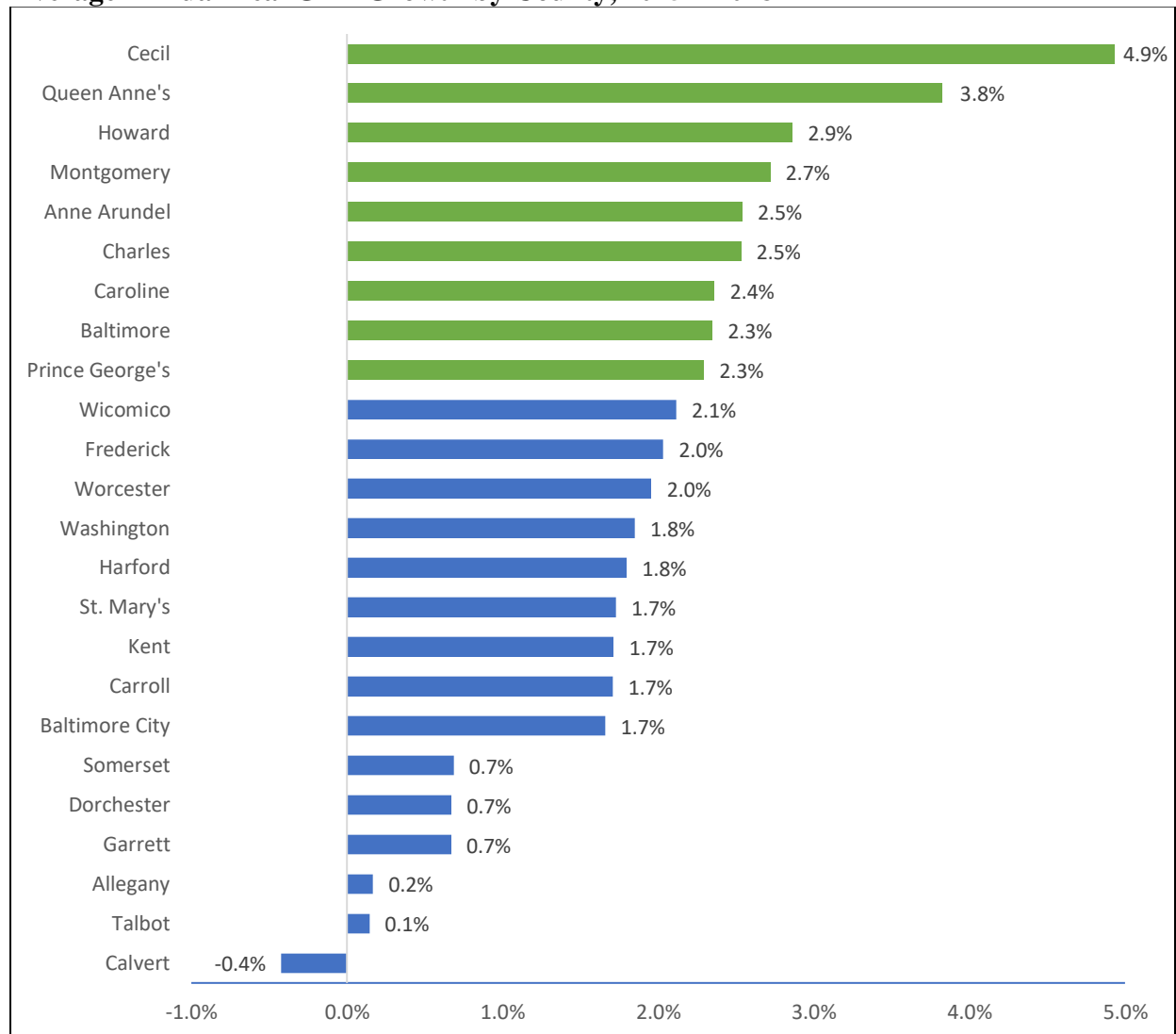
County	Private Industries	Government
Calvert	91%	9%
Talbot	92%	8%
Howard	93%	7%

Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

GDP Growth

Prior data released by BEA documented GDP between 2012 and 2015. Since that period, between 2015 and 2018, real GDP in Maryland grew at an average annual rate of 2.3 percent. As shown in the chart below, nine Maryland counties, highlighted in green, had a growth rate above this level.

Average Annual Real GDP Growth by County, 2015—2018



Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

Cecil County experienced the largest growth rate between 2015 and 2018 at 4.9 percent. This strong growth rate was primarily driven by a sharp increase in GDP between 2017 and 2018; in

this period, GDP grew in the county by over 11 percent. Queen Anne’s County had the second highest growth rate for GDP between 2015 and 2018 at 3.8 percent. However, in Queen Anne’s County, growth was more stable each year, ranging between 2.5 and 5.6 percent.

Calvert County had the only negative growth rate among Maryland counties between 2015 and 2018. However, growth between 2015 and 2017 was positive; in 2016, GDP in the county grew by 7.9 percent and in 2017 GD grew by 4.2 percent. The overall negative growth rate is due entirely to a sharp decline in 2018 of just over 12 percent.

In addition to measuring how overall GDP grew between 2015 and 2018, the new data from BEA shows how GDP grew as a result of different industries in the state. The table below illustrates how economic activity for each industry changed in Maryland.

Average Annual Real GDP Growth by Industry, 2015—2018

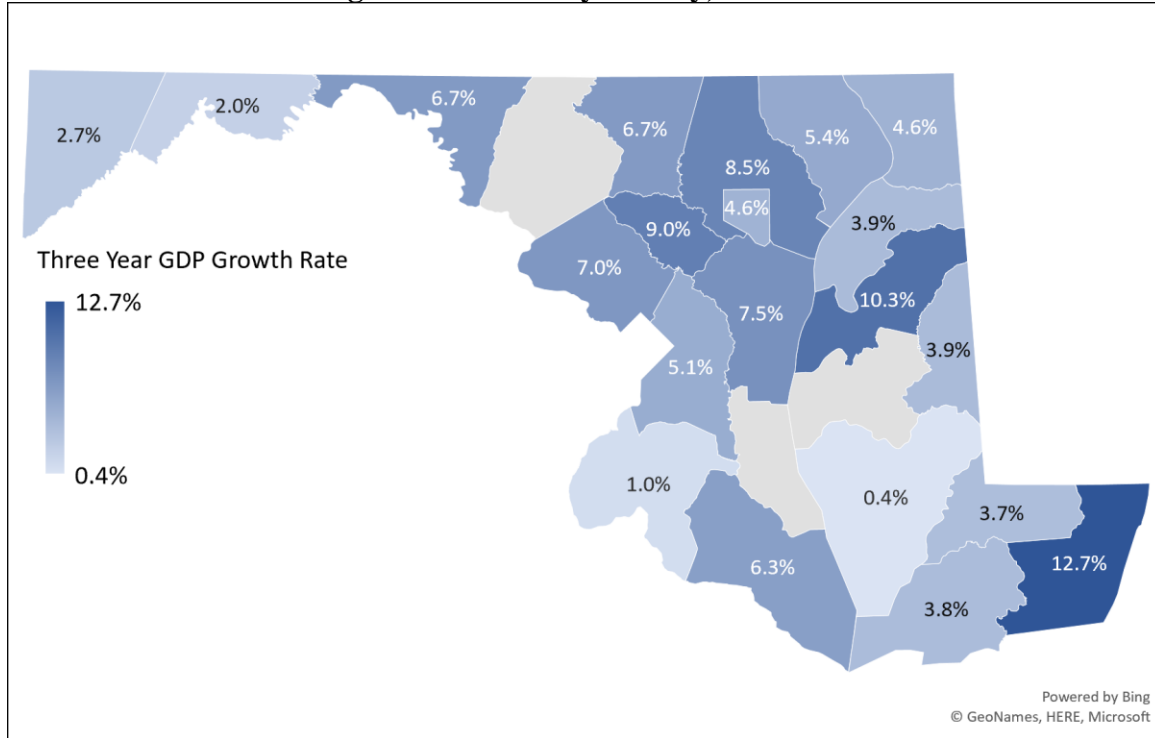
Sector	Average Annual Growth Rate, 2015 – 2018
Maryland Average	2.3%
Information	8.2%
Durable goods manufacturing	7.7%
Management of companies and enterprises	7.3%
Nondurable goods manufacturing	5.6%
Utilities	4.2%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	2.9%
Transportation and warehousing	2.8%
Retail trade	2.7%
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	2.6%
Accommodation and food services	2.3%
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.9%
Finance and insurance	1.8%
Health care and social assistance	1.6%
Educational services	1.2%
Construction	0.9%
Government and government enterprises	0.9%
Other services (except government and government enterprises)	0.7%
Wholesale trade	0.6%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.3%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-0.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-0.5%

Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

As seen above, Maryland’s average annual GDP growth of 2.3 percent was led by several industries. The information sector grew the fastest, with an average annual growth rate of 8.2 percent between 2015 and 2018. Maryland’s manufacturing industry also outperformed the

Maryland average; durable goods manufacturing had the second highest growth rate in the state and nondurable goods manufacturing had the fourth highest rate. Notably, growth in the manufacturing sector was spread across the state. As shown in the map below, GDP in the manufacturing industry grew at a faster rate than Maryland’s overall GDP in all but three counties for which data was available.

Growth in Manufacturing-Related GDP by County, 2015—2018



Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

While most industries in Maryland grew between 2015 and 2018, two industries experienced a decline in GDP: Arts, entertainment, and recreation and Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. Although Arts, entertainment, and recreation has experienced a modest decline recently, the industry’s real GDP has grown by 10.9 percent since 2009.

Next Steps

BEA will release updated GDP numbers on December 9, 2020. The Maryland Department of Commerce will summarize those results when they are available and identify key changes over the past year. Key measures to watch include Maryland’s strong manufacturing industry and if any corrections are issued for some of the more substantial GDP changes BEA reported for 2018.